

CLEAR FUTURES

Social Value



Our purpose and vision

“At Clear Futures our purpose is to help address the challenges faced by local people – including social, economic and environmental – and maximise opportunities to bring positive change through the delivery of energy and sustainability services and projects.

Our vision is to reduce poverty and inequality, enhance community economic and social wellbeing and increase resilient and environmental sustainability.”



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Introduction

Clear Futures is committed to positive change that creates sustainable social value and boosts community wealth building activity in local communities. We focus on keeping the £ spend local and making a meaningful difference to the places where people live, visit and work by helping to uncover opportunities to close skills gaps and stimulate local employability.

Our social value approach embraces social, economic, and physical sustainability in a meaningful way and creates common threads that can be woven into the projects and services that we help create and deliver. We work in partnership with our participants and supply chain partners to ensure social value and opportunities are delivered to serve the needs of the local communities.

Each Clear Futures partnership focuses on an integrated approach to gain a true understanding of the challenges currently faced across the UK public sector in local communities, economies and natural environment. From this we work together to create a bespoke Community Social Impact Plan to meet key challenges through innovative and creative solutions and a collaborative, joined-up approach.

Our aim is to deliver energy and sustainability projects or services that best serve local residents and stakeholders. To ensure this we have set out social value key focus areas, aligned to key public sector priorities, to ensure the following themes are addressed within our partnerships and delivery.

- COVID-19 recovery – support **local community wealth building and inclusive growth**.
- Support **local SMEs** to grow and be sustainable.
- Meaningful and sustainable **employment opportunities** for local people.
- Support the public sector to **address climate change challenges** and progress towards net zero.
- **Overcome inequalities** to provide opportunities for all.
- Promote **independent, healthy lifestyles** with a focus on health and wellbeing.
- **Resilient and thriving communities** with a strong identity and culture.
- Support delivery of United Nations **Sustainable Development Goals**.
- Social Value Act 2012 and PPN 10/21.
- Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014, Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.



Our approach to social value

We learn through the participant and identify how we can help and support in the delivery of their vision, objectives and policies.

As each partnership is developed, we work with the participant to understand and develop their ambitions for the Clear Futures partnership to determine clear sustainable and social value outcomes for their communities.

A community, people and asset-based approach will focus on how to link opportunities and key stakeholders to support the participant's objectives and meet targets, as well as creating additional value on existing project or service delivery.

Clear Futures approach: working collaboratively with the public sector to deliver meaningful local and sustainable outcomes

Bespoke community social impact plans

– meeting the needs of local communities. It's important to truly understand the key issues faced in local areas and communities to ensure the work we do best addresses those challenges and delivers maximum impact. By listening to and working closely with our participant's team, together we can create dynamic solutions to support delivery of their key objectives and ambitions.

Sustainable and social value outcomes

– each partnership has agreed social value and sustainable outcomes, with specific objectives created for each project or service delivered to maximise valuable and meaningful outcomes.

Target setting, monitoring and reporting

Clear Futures uses the UK Social Value Taskforce's National Themes Outcomes Measures Framework (TOMs) and its Real Estate Plug-in to measure social value (2022). The National Social Value Taskforce developed the TOMs Framework in collaboration with the Local Government Association (LGA) National Advisory Group to establish a simple, intelligible methodology and a minimum reporting standard for social value. The bespoke Community Social Impact Plan targets are set, monitored, and reported using the TOMs Framework to demonstrate the actual Social & Local Economic Value (SLEV) delivered.

Dedicated Social Value Manager – our social value expert will work collaboratively within the partnership to ensure successful delivery of agreed sustainability and social value outcomes.

20% social value weighting – we aim to set up to a 20% weighting on all tenders and supply chain award criteria to ensure our delivery partners share our understanding of the importance of social value and have experience of delivering social value commitments. The weighting is agreed collectively with the participant and their priorities for specific project or service outcome deliverables.

Economy: driving inclusive growth and creating meaningful opportunities for local people

Keep £ spend local – radius targets for supply chain and local SME and business spend.

Sustainable work opportunities – we proactively engage with the local supply chain including SME's, micro-enterprises, Ethnic Minority-Owned Businesses and Third Sector Organisations to make them aware of upcoming opportunities, and no matter a project size, there is opportunity to get involved.

Local jobs for local people – we create meaningful employment opportunities such as work placements, internships, apprenticeships and jobs.

Commitment to levelling up and inclusive growth – create the best outcomes for local communities.

Employability and training opportunities – for people who are disadvantaged or facing barriers to work, such as the long-term unemployed.

Young people focus – create positive career destinations by engaging with and providing opportunities for young people and hard to reach groups (such as NEETs, care-leavers).

Social: creating sustainable communities that are healthy, independent and resilient

Equality and diversity – ensure a culture of fairness, inclusion and respect across our organisation and raising awareness of this with our supply chain partners.

Mental health and wellbeing – overcome health inequalities by providing support and raising awareness around wellbeing and mental health within our own workforce and across partnerships.

Transformational fund pot – Clear Futures reinvests a proportion of its fee to develop new projects and services or invests the fund directly into local community projects or activities.

Community projects – engage with key community groups to deliver mini renovation “Neighbourhood Community Projects” to enhance the local community.

Environment: protecting our planet and progressing public sector key climate change goals

Sustainable projects and services – at concept we agree sustainability outcomes aligned to our participant's policies and ambitions to maximise outcomes, with net zero and green spaces for instance.

Environmental protection and waste reduction – we use sustainable practices across our organisation to ensure minimal impact on our planet. Through KPIs we measure and mitigate the impact on our natural environment from delivery and encourage our supply chain partners to follow the same sustainable practices.

Transition to a low carbon economy – through our decarbonisation offer we work with participants to support their net zero journey and successfully achieve carbon reduction targets.

We delivered 35.99% SLEV from 2019 to 2023, placing Clear Futures in the top 25%, in a benchmarking exercise completed by the Social Value Portal.

(Social Local Economic Value Add)

Collaboratively tackle big challenges

We understand that every public sector body is different and will each have their own unique set of challenges to address. To maximise outcomes we want to be as flexible as possible, and offer various ways to work with participants and address their specific needs, for instance:

Theme	Example solutions
Fight climate change and work towards net zero	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share knowledge and educate supply chain partners on sustainable practices. • Support supply chain partners to develop an Environmental Management Strategy plan. • Deliver green challenges including Cycle to Work and schemes such as Walk this Way and Together for our Planet. • Energy saving initiatives – roll out scheme across offices and sites to reduce energy waste.
Meaningful and sustainable employment opportunities for local people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people – provide work placements and employment opportunities. • Education engagement – provide curriculum-based STEAM activities, work placements, sponsorship and careers events. • Retrain and reskill – long-term unemployed and career changers. • Green jobs – utilise government funding and training schemes, fill labour shortages within the green industry. • Apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities. • Good Employment Standard Charter. • Develop Trusted Trader schemes, creating and leaving a legacy.
Equal opportunities for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work towards a real living wage accreditation and encourage supply chain partners to do the same. • Identify and address gender pay gaps. • Work with people facing barriers to work, including NEETs, ex-offenders, veterans and care-leavers, and help get them back into employment. • Identify and engage with SMEs in disadvantaged areas that need support. • Tackle disadvantage and discrimination by supporting and creating opportunities for individuals included within the protected characteristics of the Equality Act (2010).
Support local wealth-building and inclusive growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential investment opportunities. • Keeping £ spend local through radius spend targets. • Engage with local businesses (SMEs and Third Sector Organisations) • Engage with local supply chain partners to build awareness of available opportunities and support their tendering by delivering meet the buyer events, workshops, training, and networking events. • Support local businesses and start-ups through network events, workshops, and grant application support.
Promote independent, healthy lifestyles with improved wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the health inequality of the workforce through health and wellbeing programmes and initiatives. • Mental health awareness training. • Cycle to work schemes and active challenges.
Resilient and thriving communities with a strong identity and culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create social enterprises to support a community need. • Employee volunteering schemes in the local community. • Support and sponsorship for local events. • Enhance public sector buildings for community use. • Create safe spaces. • Engage and work with ecosystems of SMEs and Third Sector Organisations to identify mutual opportunities – i.e. small, independent businesses typically have a social enterprise element.

Unlock social value

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Bolton Council

Ladybridge High School extension

Building capacity through sustainable development



The £4.5m expansion of the Ladybridge High School gives the school capacity to take on an additional 150 pupils and is one of the borough's secondary schools redeveloping buildings to meet the rising demand for school places.

Instead of constructing a new building, the extension was delivered by reusing an existing and under-utilised building onsite. The works have improved the fabric of the building, structural issues and upgraded electrics – bringing economies of scale and savings to the Council, and creating a vibrant environment for teaching and learning.

Driving economic, social and environmental benefits

During the project the Clear Futures team worked with Ladybridge High School and community organisations to maximise the reach and impact of social value activities, resulting in:



£842,571

of social value delivered on the project.*



20

local people employed.



3

weeks of work placements for local young people.



32

apprenticeships weeks.



40

hours of career activities for high school students.



99.28%

of waste diverted from landfill.



960

car miles saved through sustainable transport.



112

hours of mental health training for employees and workforce.



Donated excess site materials to the school farm and helped pupils build animal shelters and animal exercise equipment.



Helped students make Christmas trees out of old pallets that were sold, with all profits donated to Bolton Hospice.

*Total Social & Local Economic (SLEV) delivered using TOM's Framework

"The site demonstrates continuous improvement, particularly in relation to collaborative working with the school, supporting the community and H&S which were exceptional. Respecting the community is judged as exceptional. The site is projecting the scheme's core objectives, promoting local opportunities and the offer of support to individuals and community groups."

Considerate Constructors Report, January 2020

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Visit www.clearfutures.co.uk for more information